

Rail link of Amethi with Shahgunj

4696. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA*': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to link Amethi with Shahgunj by rail line in this year's Budget;

(b) if so, when was this proposal mooted for the first time and what was the reason for keeping it pending; and

(c) what are the reasons for starting it again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, survey for rail link between Shahganj—Sultanpur—Amethi—Garhi Manakpur via Gotani (142 kms.) was carried out in 1983. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this line was assessed as Rs. 31.91 crores with a negative rate of return. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the line, the proposal could not be considered.

(c) In view of the demand for providing rail link between Shahganj to Amethi via Sultanpur (110 Kms.), an updating survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Allotment of new railway bookstalls to M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co.

4697. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. were running bookstalls at 258 Railway Stations as on 21st August, 2000;

(b) whether the said firm was operating bookstalls at 264 stations as on 1st December, 2000; and

(c) if so, what the names of six new stations where bookstalls have been allotted to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. and the procedure followed for allotment of the same?